

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for matching specific clinical trials to qualified individuals, comprising the steps of:
 - storing criteria for a plurality of clinical trials, where each clinical trial describes a course of treatment for a particular illness or disease;
 - obtaining information from a user;
 - determining whether the user is qualified for one or more clinical trials by comparing the obtained information with the stored criteria; and
 - presenting the user with information regarding the clinical trials for which it was determined the user was qualified.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of obtaining information includes an initial assessment used in determining the qualification of the user for a particular clinical trial.
3. The method of claim 1 further including the step of storing specific assessment questions for each particular disease and trial, and wherein these questions are presented to the user subsequent to answering initial assessment questions.
4. The method of claim 1 further includes the step of obtaining clinical trial information from clinical trial sponsors.
5. The method of claim 2 further including storing the responses to the assessment questions.

6. The method of claim 1 further including receiving new clinical trials wherein the user is notified of the new clinical trial for which the user is determined to be a possible candidate.

7. A computer readable medium containing a program which executes the following steps:

obtaining information from a user to assess whether the user is a match for a particular clinical trial;

selecting clinical trials for which the user fits the criteria of being a possible match; and

presenting the user with the selected clinical trials.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the step of obtaining information includes an initial assessment used in determining the qualification of the user for a particular clinical trial.

9. The method of claim 7 further including the step of storing specific assessment questions for each particular disease and trial and wherein these questions are presented to the user subsequent to answering initial assessment questions.

10. The method of claim 7 further includes the step of obtaining clinical trial information from clinical trial sponsors.

11. The method of claim 8 further including storing the responses to the assessment questions.

12. The method of claim 7 further including receiving new clinical trials wherein the user is notified of the new clinical trials for which the user is determined to be a possible candidate.

13. A clinical trial matching system, comprising:

a memory that stores criteria for a plurality of clinical trials, where each clinical trial describes a method of treatment for a particular illness or disease;

a user interface by which a user may enter data which provides information in order to match the user to a specific clinical trial for which the user has a high probability of qualifying;

a selection component which selects the clinical trials to which the user is a possible match; and

a presentation component which presents the selected clinical trial to the user.

14. The system of claim 13 further comprising a relational database that stores information relating to at least one of user information, clinical trials, assessment questions, and clinical trial matches.

15. The system of claim 13 wherein the system is a web based system.

16. The system of claim 13 wherein the system is capable of integrating into other health care related systems.

17. The system of claim 13 wherein information for matching a user to a clinical trial is obtained from a series of assessment questions presented to the user.

18. The system of claim 17 wherein said questions contained pre-defined answers that identify conditions for inclusion or exclusion from a specific trial.